



**TCF Submission to the Economic Development, Science and Innovation Committee  
On the Regulatory Systems (Economic Development) Amendment Bill  
Amendments to Telecommunications Act 2001  
September 2024**

**Introduction**

1. Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission on the Regulatory Systems (Economic Development) Amendment Bill (the Bill).
2. This submission is provided by the New Zealand Telecommunications Forum (TCF). The TCF is the telecommunications sector's industry body which plays a vital role in bringing together the telecommunications industry and key stakeholders to resolve regulatory, technical and policy issues for the benefit of the sector and consumers. TCF member companies represent 95 percent of New Zealand telecommunications customers.
3. The focus of this submission is on the proposed amendments to the Telecommunications Act 2001 (the Act) to postpone the expiry of statutory rights to access shared property to install fibre for a further three years. These amendments are set out in clauses 152A to 152D, in the [Amendment Paper](#) to the Bill.

**Land access to shared property for fibre installations (clauses 152A - 152D)**

4. The TCF supports postponing expiry of the statutory rights to access shared property to install fibre (due to expire on 1 January 2025) for a further three years while the Government considers their long-term future.
5. The access rights were included in the Act to enable more people and businesses to obtain the benefits of fibre-to-the-premises within a shorter timeframe. Demand for

fibre is continuing, with the access regime currently being used for between 10 and 30 percent of installations<sup>1</sup>.

6. It is important that the access rights do not lapse at this time (and that there is not a gap between expiry and reinstatement). If this happens, fibre providers and their retail customers will need to materially shift their processes. These changes are expected to increase uncertainty, could lead to complaints about fibre installation delays and cancellations, and may reduce fibre uptake.
7. The TCF is happy to answer any questions the Committee might have on the views set out in this submission, and would like to appear in person if the Committee hears submissions on the Bill. Please contact:

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<sup>1</sup> MBIE, Enhancing Telecommunications Regulatory and Funding Frameworks, 2024 discussion-document, para 37.